

# NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

## LETTER FROM MAJOR DOWNING.

### PRIVATE DESPATCH TO GENERAL PIERCE.

To go through one of the organs—the Union, or the Sentinel, or the Star, or one of the other organs, if they've got going yet.

Downingville, State of Maine.

DEAR GENERAL: I got back from my tour in Europe yesterday, and found Uncle Joshua, and Aunt Keziah, and Cousin Nabby, and Cousin Sargent Joel all well; and I hope these few lines will find you enjoying the same blessing. I'm glad of one thing, and that is, that you ain't troubled so much about organs as you was when I went away. There wasn't any organ then, only the Union, and that was a disputed one; so I had to send my last despatch to my old friends, Mr. Gales & Scaton, and get them to forward it to you the best way they could. But I understand now that organs is getting to be as plenty as blackberries; and that seems to be lucky about this time, for, if what Uncle Joshua tells me is all true, it will need a good many of 'em to play tunes to suit all parties. If you could manage to have an organ for each member of the Cabinet, it would be a great help; for then each one could play his own tune, and no jarring; and harmony is what we need all round. Mr. MARCY needs an organ all to himself, to fire off his 44-pounders at Austria and the rest of Europe, to keep matters straight over there. And Mr. GUTHRIE, I'm sure, needs an organ all to himself to manage his New York correspondence. And there's General CUMMINS, he ought to have a nice organ all to himself that would play military tunes, so that every body, as soon as they heard it, would feel as if they wanted to march. And General DAVIS ought to have a military organ too; but some say he and General GUTHRIE might get along very well with one organ between 'em, and that General Davis could play his variations on Mr. Guthrie's organ.

And then the different "sections" of the party needs different organs too. I never believed the same tune would satisfy the "Hards" and the "Softs" of New York; and from what Uncle Joshua tells me it's just so. He says the organ has been pouring out delightful strains of harmony all summer, but the more it poured 'em out the greater was the discord between the Hards and Softs, till finally it worked 'em to a pitch of phrensy, and he says they are now fighting and pulling caps like mad. That shows clearly to my mind that the different "sections" ought to all have their own organs, and I don't think there'll be any peace till they have. And that's why I'm glad to find that organs is growing more plenty.

But about my tour in Europe I've got a good deal to say, more than I can get into this despatch, and some of it I think would work well into your message to Congress next month, if I can get time to bring it, or send it on to you in time. Yes, as I had your commission of Minister General to go on my own hook wherever I pleased, and look after matters just as I thought best, it gives me a capital chance to put to advantage. And Mr. Marcy's rules, too, about dress worked first-rate; for when I thought it best to go to a little on the sly, I could just put on my drab surtout and broad brim hat and sash and go round among the whole bill of 'em, and they wouldn't mistrust who I was. So when I found out which way the cat was going to jump, and thought it was best to head 'em and bring 'em to a halt, I had nothing to do but to pull my commission out of my pocket and show it to 'em, and that did the business. The fact is, Europe's afraid of us. I think we are fast getting the upper hand. There ain't another nation in all creation, without 'tis Russia, that hardly dares to say her soul's her own, for fear we shall be down upon her and take her soul away from her. And even Russia feels a little ticklish for fear that, when she gets into her high-falutin' with Turkey, and the rest of Europe goes to take sides, we shall turn up and lick the whole scrape and annex 'em to our modern Rome. I see somebody has put out a book that proves as clear as preachin' that the United States is modern Rome; so when General Cushing said in his speech we must march, march, march, and do as old Rome did, he was talking by the book.

About this war business in Europe, if there's anything to be learned in diplomatic circles, and I've sifted the whole of 'em, there's to be a tight scratch all round before it's over. The truth is, Russia is in real earnest after Turkey as ever a bear was to get into a cornfield. She clambered over into the field, like a great bear as she is, just for the purpose of eating her way through from one end to 'tother. But she intended to do it all in a peaceable friendly way, marching coolly and slowly along, step by step, till she got down to the lower end of the field, and then she would swallow Constantinople just as quick as a cat could lick her ear, and poor Turkey never would know what become of her. The czar intended to do all this in a very friendly quiet way, intending along at his leisure, and not have any fuss at all about it. But the foolish Sultan got frightened, and worked himself into a tantrum, and declared war, and told Mr. Bear to clear out of his cornfield in fifteen days or he'd set the dogs after him. Well, that made the Czar mad; and now he says, clear the track, for he's going down to Constantinople whether or no, let who will stand in the way, and there shall be a Turk's head left anywhere, clear from Dan to Deersheba, that is, if the other nations will just form a ring and see fair play, and not interfere. But the Czar is a good deal afraid England and France will be for having a finger in the pie; so he has agreed with Austria and Prussia, who are on his side, to keep quiet and declare themselves neutral, and not stir an inch as long as England and France will keep quiet. But if they begin to meddle, then all hands to fall to, and have a regular scratch and pulling caps all round.

Well, now, England and France don't mean to keep quiet. They are watching Russia just as narrow as ever a cat watched a mouse; and before Russia gets half way down to Constantinople there'll be a terrible fuss. The French roster will grow, and the British lion will grow and shake his mane, and if the Russian bear don't get licked or scared and turn tail to and run, but holds on and eats up one end of Turkey, then England and France will eat up the heads together and eat up 'tother end, and keep it right up.

Now, when all this rummaging gets to its highest pitch in Europe, and all the nations get at it pell mell, it'll be the time for us to strike, and go to annexin, and carry out our manifest destiny in a handsome manner. What's the use of our nibbling about among small fry near home and annexin little patches here and there, such as Cuba and little slices off of Mexico, when we might just as well branch out and do something splendid—something that old Rome couldn't hold a candle to, something that General Cushing himself could say was quite "up to the occasion"? Who wants to wait for our manifest destiny till one-half the present generation has died off? I say no; now's the time; we must strike when the iron's hot. So, when the Czar and all his troops are away down toward Pepperturkey, let us whip round into the Baltic and annex St. Petersburg, and put a navy and an army there that will command all Northern Europe. By that time England and France will get to quarrelling with each other to see which shall have Constantinople, and that will be the time for us to be down upon them like a thousand of bricks. Take London, and then we shall have John Bull by the horns; take Paris, and that'll give us all the jining countries. Then sail up the Mediterranean, drive the English and French fleets all afore us, force our way through the Dardanelles, and get possession of that "golden horn" they tell about. Then, if I understand geography right, we shall have full sweep all over creation.

What's to be done on 'tother side, over the Pacific way, ain't much. Commodore Perry has fairly got his wedge into the oyster shell of Japan, and that's half the battle. Jest send word to him to annex China on his way round, and on his route home pick up the islands along the coast. The Pacific will be just as easy as to pick up so many bird's eggs. And after we get through our manifest destiny, I don't see what there need be to hinder our en-

# JOYING PEACE AND QUIETNESS AT HOME AND HAVING A GOOD TIME OF IT.

We shall certainly then have enough for all hands and no mistake; offices enough for all them that wants offices, and spoils enough for all them that's hungry for spoils. And then let every man of us "set his face like a flint as well against right-handed backslidings as against left-handed defections, which may prejudice or embarrass the onward progress of the Republic." Then there needn't be no more quarrelling between the Hards and Softs about which gets the most, for there'll be enough for the whole bill of 'em.

We ought to be going ahead with this business as fast as possible, for Uncle Joshua says the party has got into a terrible snarl, and nothing but a grand coop-d-a-tot can get 'em out of it. He says Collector Bronson, of New York, has lost his head, owing to a little misunderstanding between him and Mr. Guthrie. They both tried to see which could stand up the straightest on the Baltimore platform, and they both agreed that the platform was the rule, and every thing ought to be squared up to it. Mr. Bronson was quite impartial, and Mr. Guthrie was a good deal more so. When Mr. Bronson took his seat at the head of the custom-house table, and all "sections" of the party come crowding and shuffling round to get the best places at the table and alongside the best dishes, he tried to give 'em all a fair chance, but somehow he thought it was no more than right to help round first them that had always stood fast and square on the platform, and if some of them that used to get on it had to wait a little, it might do 'em good. But the spitlers made a terrible fuss about it, and kept up such a din in Mr. Guthrie's ears that he turned round and told Mr. Bronson right up and down that he mustn't show no partiality. If a spitler was called spitting on the platform, give him his regular meal. This touched Mr. Bronson a little, and he said he was able to do the honors of his own table, and he would attend to the duties of his office if Mr. Guthrie would do his. Mr. Guthrie said that was rebellion; so he brought him to the block and chopped his head off.

Uncle Joshua says it is a very misfortunate business, and has thrown the whole party into a high fever. The fever rages the hardest in the "section" of the New York Hards, and looks as though it might prove fatal. But General Cushing, who is very skillful in matters, has put a blister plaster on to the Massachusetts Softs, in the hopes of drawing out the inflammation from the New York Hards. But Uncle Joshua says he don't think the party is out of danger yet. But as long as there's life there's hope; so let us all keep a stiff upper lip and go ahead.

Your faithful friend and Minister General,

MAJOR JACK DOWNING.

## POWELL'S GREAT NATIONAL PICTURE.

The great historical picture by POWELL, of Cincinnati, representing the discovery of the Mississippi by HERNANDO DE SOTO, painted by order of Congress, being intended to fill the vacant panel in the Rotunda of the Capitol at Washington, is now on exhibition at New York. One of the papers of that city gives the following description of it:

Mr. Powell has selected the moment when De Soto and his cavaliers from the hill got the first full view of the broad expanse of the river, and the artist has made the most of his canvas that could be crowded into it without discord, we are much mistaken. Beginning in the center, the mail-clad hero of the picture, upon a fiery white horse, is strikingly conspicuous. Behind him are the Spaniards, in their rich and colorful costumes, armed and accoutred, according to the Spanish warlike fashions of that day. In the midst of them, upon a patient donkey in regal harness, is a white friar. The eyes of all this party, with a general expression of intense satisfaction, are fixed upon the river, the friar having his hands clasped in uplifted prayer. Behind this group, to the left, follow the mailed and helmeted warriors of the expedition, their brilliant spears and battle axes, in lengthened array, stretching back till lost in the misty woods, thus leaving upon the eye the impression of a powerful force still behind, though invisible to the eye. To the right, upon a plateau, on the immediate river bank, is a cluster of four Indian tents fantastically frescoed with barbaric devices. By the side of these tents stand a group of Indian warriors, in the most striking war costumes of their tribe. An old chief is reaching forward the pipe of peace to the wonderful invaders of his lands with an air and bearing of profound humility; another is looking on with fixed amazement, and a third, intruding with a younger warrior is resolutely gazing at De Soto with determined stolidity. In front of these warriors are two Indian damsels, nearly naked, and finished to the highest perfection of Indian beauty, reclining on the ground, with their hands and feet of coral, ducks, and other peace-offerings lying before them, to the acceptance of which they are vainly endeavoring to gain De Soto, for his eyes are fixed upon the Mississippi. In the immediate foreground, the right arm of the picture, is a group of the ministers of the Catholic faith planting an immense cross, formed of two parts of a tree with the bark on, with a small figure of the crucified Saviour nailed upon it. The holy brothers are lifting the cross into the hole which has been dug to receive it. One of them has his two forefingers up, while the other, kneeling down, with the cross in his hands, is drawing the figures, and the costumes, &c.; the coloring, the lights and the shades, to our judgment, are charmingly harmonious and true. 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